



## **West Fertilizer Plant Explosion**

### **Regional Update**

**April 24, 2013, 1200 CDT**

- On April 23, 2013, EPA continued air monitoring activities with two stationary sites in a public park directly west of the facility and one mobile monitoring team that monitored in the neighborhoods west of the facility. EPA will continue monitoring for the same parameters that include volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. No air monitoring readings above background were detected during today's operations.
- ATF reported that Ammonium Nitrate, Phosphates, and Sulfates were detected from 9 soil samples that were collected at the West Fertilizer facility.
- ATF investigation of the apartment complex included sifting through debris by hand and heavy equipment for evidence.
- EPA made recommendations for ATF to follow NESHAPS rules for asbestos during demolition activities.
- NIOSH has joined ATF's investigation and will be assisting them with recommendations for field operations.
- EPA continues to coordinate with ATF, OSHA, CSB, TCEQ, DSHS, and the Office of the Texas State Chemist on current and future site operations.
- TCEQ contractors continued conducting 24 hour air monitoring around the facility perimeter.
- An official statement of the cause of the incident has not been released. Investigations into the order of events and cause of the explosion are on-going.

- TCEQ Chairman and EPA Regional Administrator completed tour of the West Fertilizer property and residential area immediately west of the facility.
- POTUS will attend a memorial for citizens of West on Thursday in Waco.
- OSC E. Delgado mobilized to replace OSC Moore and continue to address data needs from the field.
- FEMA mobilized their mobile command post to the West High School.

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>EPA OSC In Field</b>	<b>EPA RSC in Field</b>	<b>R6 Contractor In Field</b>	<b>National Criminal Enforcement Response Team Agents</b>	<b>EPA In REOC</b>	<b>Contractor In REOC</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>

\*Current as of 0700hrs 4/23. OSC's deployed with the Mobile Command Post.